



JPW/1731

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Frank Filser et al. Confirmation No.: 1826  
Serial No. : 09/623,268  
Filed : August 30, 2000  
TC/A.U. : 1731  
Examiner : J. L. Lazorcik

Docket No. : 00-497  
Customer No. : 34704

Mail Stop Appeal Brief-Patents  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

In the above-identified application for United States patent,  
please amend as follows.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims  
which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on Page 10 of this paper.